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SATURDAY
JULY 4, 1953

Hot and sunny. We are glad we do not have to attend the 4th of July Embassy carnival, which by noon will be in full swing.

Idled away the morning in a pleasant fashion. Appetite has returned to Audrey and we lunched at Giorgio's, the ladies commencing with a dish of melon, figs and ham, very pretty to the eye. I was content with a fettuchini, paillard di vitello (a grilled, thinly sliced veal), and asparagus; the last always strikes me as more ~~tasty~~ grateful in Italy than elsewhere - it seems almost to be penetrated with the smell of the good earth.

Our TWA plane coming from Colombo was due to depart from Ciampino airport at 2:45 but was delayed on the way, for which one can hardly blame it in view of the length of the flight. We profited by this and drove slowly to the Capitoline hill, then alongside the Forum, and finally out the old Appian way. We took off at 5:00 p.m. and I had time to read Hesketh Pearson's Life of Disraeli before we arrived at 8:10 at Paris. Amazing character Disraeli, exotic, fascinating, brilliant, a great statesman - was he sympathetic? Have just started La Vie Quotidienne à Rome à l'Apogée de l'Empire by Jerome Carcopino — a fine time to begin it!

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